IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display device;

a plurality of hardware resources <u>configured</u> ~~provided~~ to carry out image formation;

a plurality of application programs performing respective processing of the plurality

of application programs related to the image formation;

a storage device storing rewritable shared data which is used by the plurality of

application programs in common; and

a shared-data control unit selecting <u>one or more</u> [[any]] of the plurality of application

programs as destinations of updating-start notification and notifying a start of updating of the

shared data to the selected <u>one or more</u> application programs when acquisition and updating

of the shared data is inhibited in response to a write-lock request received from one of the

plurality of application programs, and the shared-data control unit notifying an end of the

updating of the shared data to the selected application programs when the acquisition and

updating of the shared data is allowed in response to an unlock request received from said

one of the plurality of application programs, <u>wherein</u>

<u>the plurality of application programs include one or more first application programs</u>

<u>configured to display the shared data on the displaying device, and one or more second</u>

<u>application programs configured to not display the shared data on the displaying device,</u>

<u>when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to the</u>

<u>write-lock request, the shared data control unit selects said one or more first application</u>

<u>programs as destinations of the updating-start notification and notifies the start of updating of</u>

the shared data to said selected one or more first application programs without selecting said

one or more second application programs and without notifying the start of the updating to

said one or more second application programs, and

when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to the

unlock request, the shared data control unit notifies the end of the updating of the shared data

to the selected one or more first application programs without notifying the end of the

updating of the shared data to said one or more second application programs.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim [[15]] 14

wherein the displaying device is an operation panel configured which is provided to display

operational messages to an operator and receive input operational commands from the

operator.

17. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14

wherein the shared-data control unit selects as the destinations of updating-start notification

[[any]] at least one of the plurality of application programs configured that are provided not

to read out the shared data from the storing device upon starting of the image forming

apparatus.

18. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, when

acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited and a read-lock request is received

from one of the plurality of application programs to which a start of the updating of the

shared data is not yet notified, the shared data-control unit notifies the start of the updating of

the shared data to said one of the plurality of application programs and rejects acquisition of the shared data in response to the received read-lock request.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, when acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited and an application use request is received from one of the plurality of application programs to which a start of the updating of the shared data is not yet notified, the shared data control unit notifies the start of the updating of the shared data to said one of the plurality of application programs.

20. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein, after the end of the updating of the shared data is notified to the selected application programs, the shared-data control unit inhibits updating of the shared data in response to a read-lock request received from any of the selected application programs to which the [[the]] end of the updating of the shared data is notified.

21. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the shared-data control unit is <u>configured</u> <s>provided</s> to include additional information, indicating that the updating of the shared data is not performed, in the updating-end notification which notifies the end of the updating of the shared data to the selected application programs.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to <u>claim 14,</u> <s>any of claims 1, 14, and 22</s> wherein the shared-data control unit is <u>configured</u> <s>provided</s> to receive

at least one of an acquisition start request, an acquisition end request, an updating start

request and an updating end request from an external network device.

26. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to ~~claim 14, any of~~

~~claims 1, 14, and 24~~ wherein the shared data comprises destination address data which [[are]]

is used by the plurality of application programs in common.

27. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to ~~claim 14, any~~

~~of claims 1, 14, and 22~~ wherein the plurality of application programs include at least one of a

scanner application program and a fax application program which use the shared data.

28-34. (Canceled)